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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH

OF THE

CWMBRAN URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

BY

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M.B., B.S., D Ph.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT



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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CWMBRAN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CWMBRAN.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

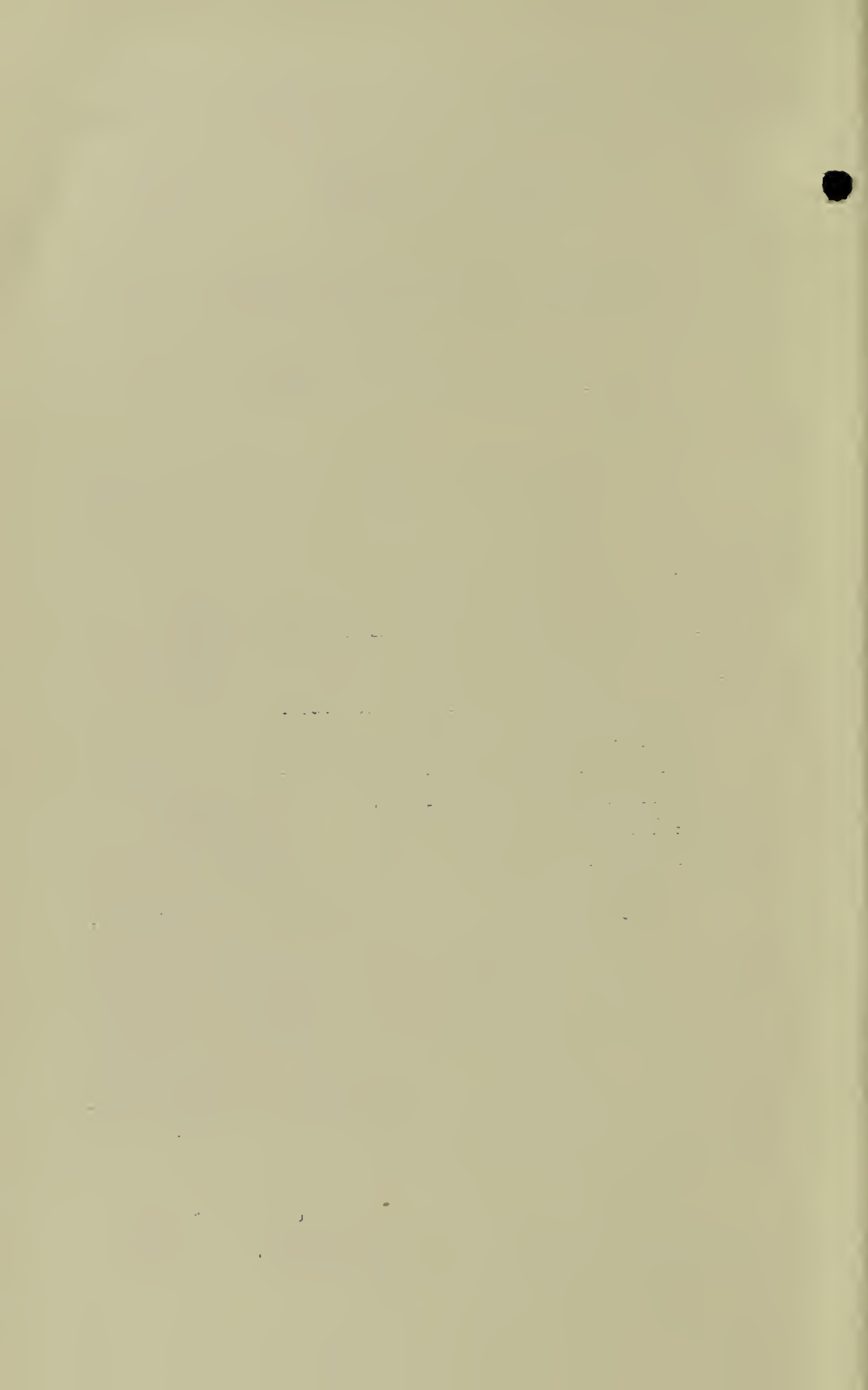
I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1951 as the Medical Officer of Health for your District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health, and includes the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	5,850
Registrar-General's estimate of resident					
population mid-1951	...	...	...	...	13,140
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1951)					
according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	3,595
Rateable Value 1/4/51	...	...	...	...	£48,451
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	£181 10 0

The figures show a small increase in the population during the year (13,070 in 1950). The census figure is slightly higher still, 13,162. A much bigger increase is expected in 1952 when the activities of the New Town Corporation will have brought many new residents into the area. Although the Corporation had not completed any of its houses by the end of the year it had in course of erection no less than 162 dwellings, most of which were to house families from outside the area with wage-earners working in the local factories.

The local industries are concerned chiefly with Iron and Steel, Light Engineering, Motor-Car Components, Tin-Plate, Brick Manufacture and Biscuit making.



VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births —Legitimate	117	124	241
Illegitimate	7	5	12
Total	124	129	253
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated			
Resident Population	...	...	19.2
Live Birth Rate of Monmouthshire	...	...	16.5
Live Birth Rate of England & Wales 1951	...	...	15.5
	Male	Female	Total
Still Births	2	4	6
Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population			0.45
Monmouthshire Rate	...	...	0.49
Rate for England & Wales	...	...	0.36
	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	103	63	166
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated			
Resident Population	...	...	12.6
Monmouthshire Death Rate	...	...	13.38
Death Rate for England & Wales 1951	...	...	12.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

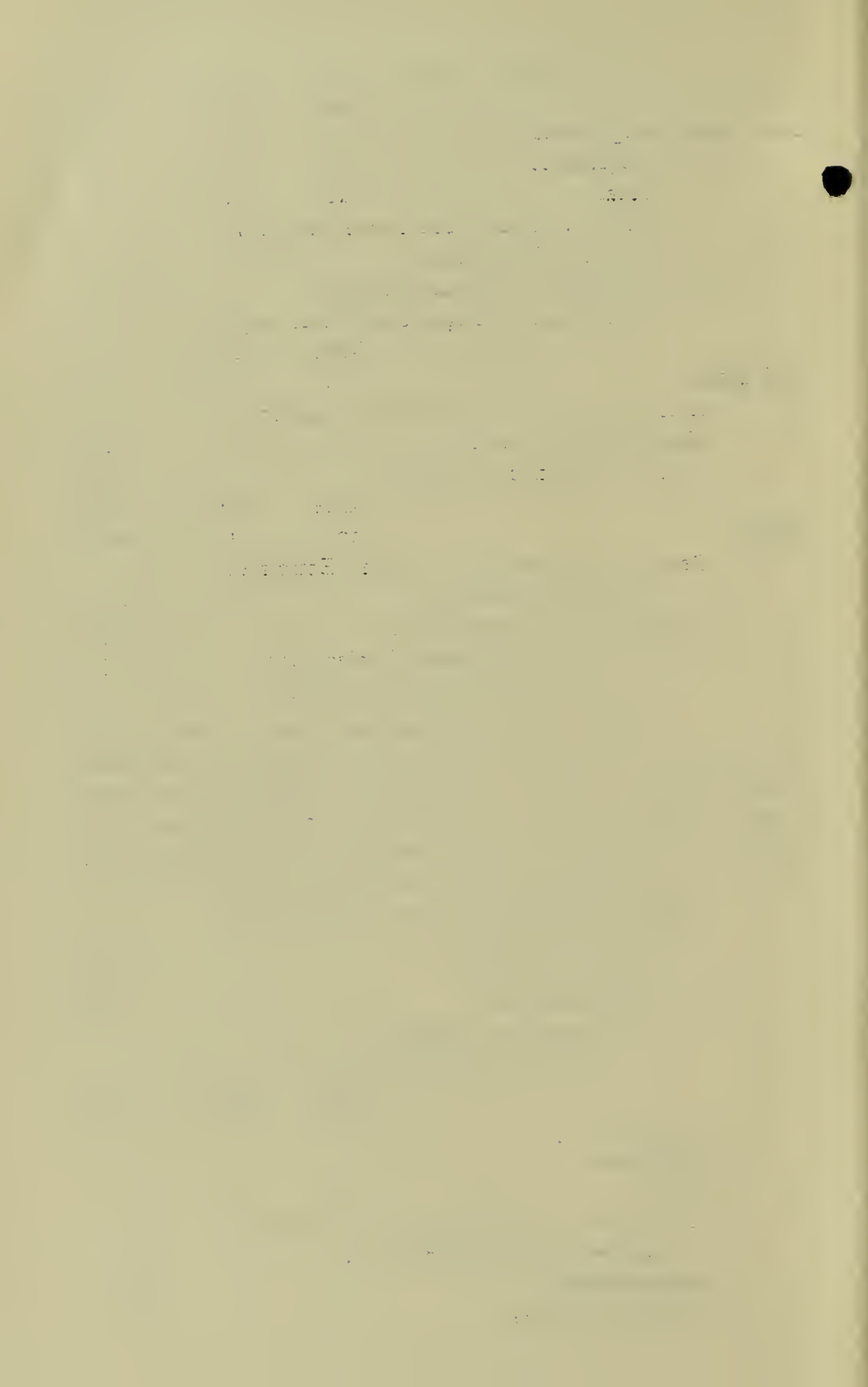
There was one maternal death from causes associated with childbirth. This is the first death of this nature in this area for many years. While it is regrettable that there should be such a death it must be understood that owing to the small numbers involved this one death gives a disproportionately high rate to which undue significance must not be given.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000	Total
(Live and Still) Births	3.86
For England & Wales	0.79
For Monmouthshire	1.48

INFANT MORTALITY.

Eleven Infants died under the age of one year.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	9	2	11
Death Rate of Infants under one year of			
age per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	43.4
Monmouthshire	...	...	43.1
England & Wales	...	...	29.6



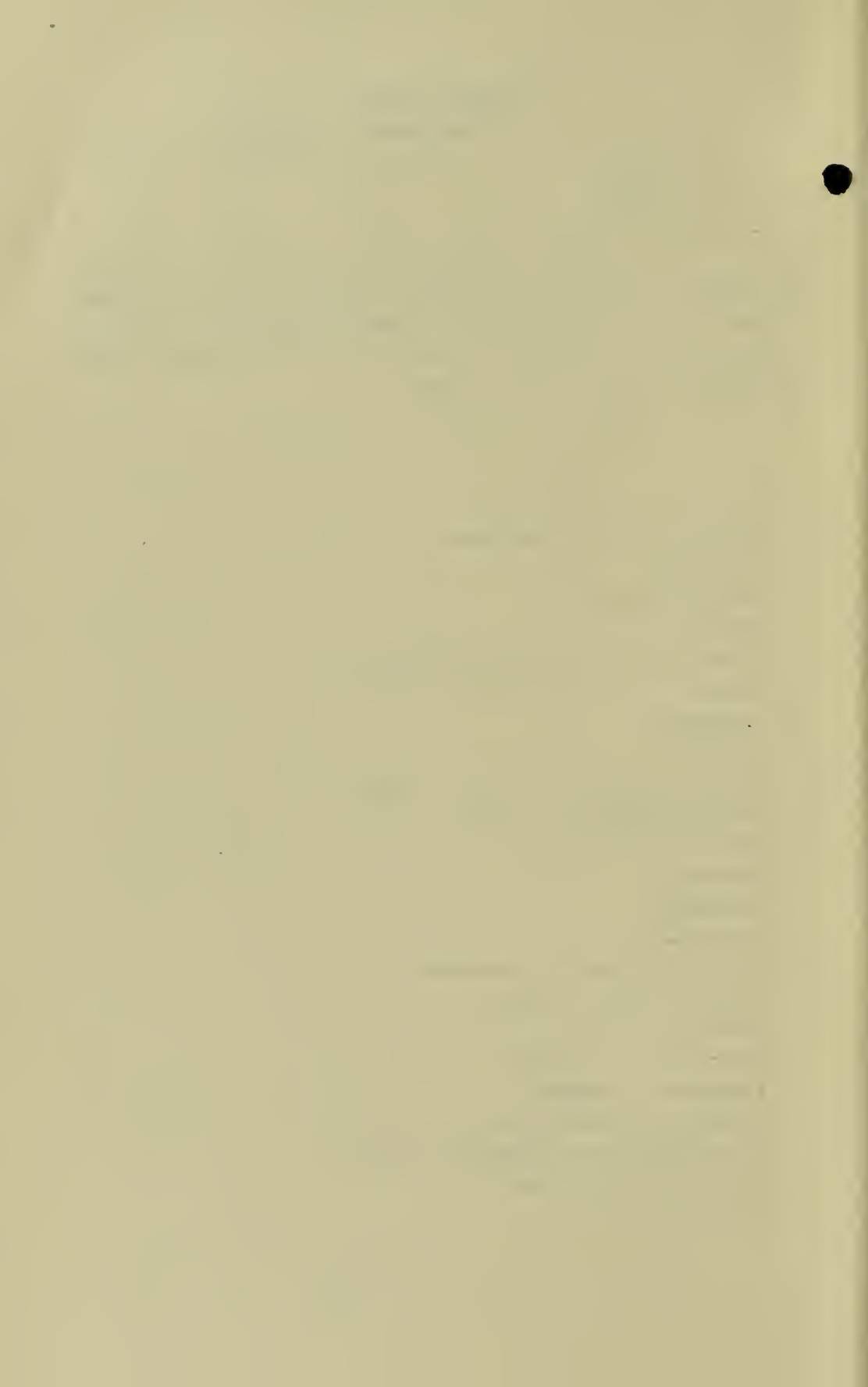
Ages at Death.

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
0 to 1 Week	... ..	5	1	6
1 to 4 Weeks	... ..	3	0	3
4 Weeks to 1 Year	... ..	2	0	2

Prematurity was the main cause of death, accounting for 8 deaths, 6 in the first week and 2 in the period 1 to 4 weeks. Measles was the cause of death of one in the period 4 weeks to 1 year and Gastro-Enteritis of the other. The remaining death was due to a congenital abnormality.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—
Cancer	12	13
Leukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	—	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	11	12
Coronary Disease, Angina	12	2
Other Heart Diseases	27	21
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	5	—
Bronchitis	9	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	—
Nephritis	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	—
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	14	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
All Other Accidents	5	—
Total ...	103	63



The Influenza epidemic which affected most of the country early in the year began to be noticed in this district in the second week in January. Towards the end of that week the incidence was high and continued to rise until the middle of the month. After that the numbers gradually decreased until by the end of February the incidence of the disease was back to normal. Early cases showed a mild to moderate severity with illness lasting about a week. Later cases were more severe with a duration of two weeks. There were two deaths.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers. The Staff consisted of :—

(a) The Medical Officer of Health, who is also Medical Officer for the No. 8 Health Area of the County Council, and (b) The Sanitary Inspector.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

The Monmouthshire County Council is the authority responsible for the local Health Services under Part III of this Act.

(a) **Clinics.** Under their jurisdiction two Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and one Ante-Natal Clinic are held weekly in the district. The Health Visitor for the area has the assistance of a colleague at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. As she is also the School Nurse she supervises the health and cleanliness of the children attending the four schools.

(b) **Domiciliary Midwifery.** There are three Midwives working in the area.

(c) **Home Nursing.** The work of the two Nurses engaged in this service continues to be very heavy. It was found necessary to provide them with extra assistance during exceptionally busy periods. With the increase of population in the New Town it will no doubt be essential for additional staff to be appointed.

(d) **Ambulance Service.** This is based on the headquarters at Caerleon.



(e) **Vaccination and Immunisation.** These services are provided at the Infant Welfare Clinics and also by the general practitioners in the area.

175 children completed the immunisation course; 174 being under five years of age and 1 aged 5—14 years.

151 people were vaccinated, 132 being children under 15 years of age.

(f) **Domestic Help Service.** This is administered as part of the No. 8 Health Area of the County Council. Part-time Domestic Helps have served the district well. The true spirit of the service has been specially evident in many cases where helpers have given much more than their bond. Their work has been thoroughly appreciated by both the recipients of their kindness and the administrators of the service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No proceedings were taken under this Section.

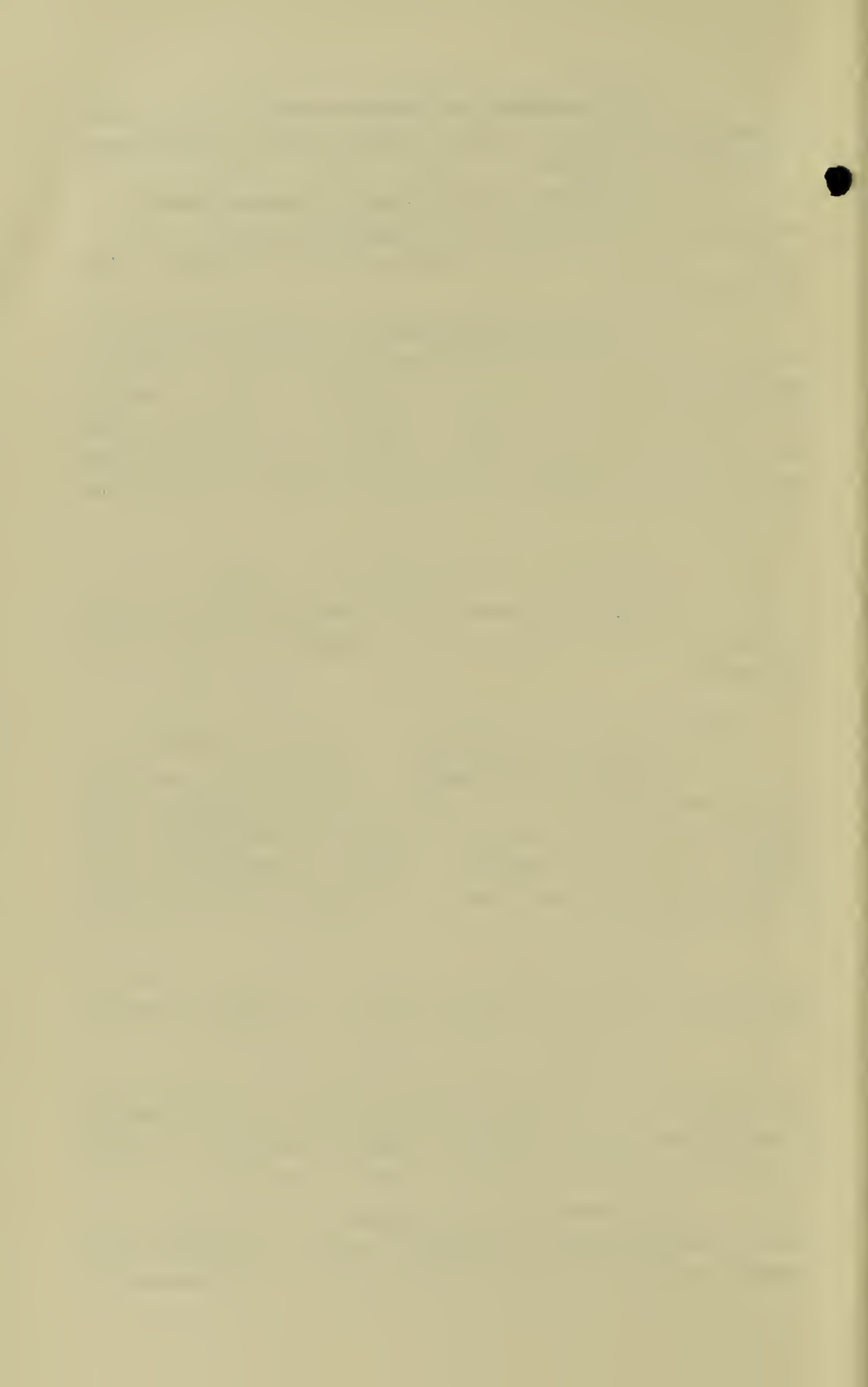
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) **The Water Supply** is gathered from mountain streams and springs into your own reservoir at Blaen-Bran, augmented by bulk supplies from Newport Corporation. Both supplies are filtered, chemically treated and chlorinated before distribution, and on bacteriological examination have been found to be very satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated houses in the area which derive their water supply from wells. Samples are periodically taken and subjected to bacteriological examination.

The scheme for providing additional water to implement supplies for the existing and New Town of approximately 25,000 population has been commenced, and the work of laying the gravity and pumping mains is nearing completion.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The whole of the area is now served with the exception of the Woodlands Upper Cwmbran, Spring Vale and Nightingale Row. The scheme for



providing a new sewer for the Nightingale Row area has been prepared and work is expected to commence towards the end of 1952. It is hoped to lay new sewers in the near future to bring the remaining properties into the Council's Sewerage System.

(iii) **Rivers and Streams.** The completion of the above works should materially reduce the pollution of the rivers and streams.

(iv) The Council carry out the **Collection of Refuse** by means of covered freighter vehicles and the disposal is as before, viz., tipping in waste areas. Every effort is made to cover the house refuse with soil or other material as soon as it has been tipped.

(v) **The Cleansing Facilities** provided at the rear of the Council Offices are regularly used by the men employed on the collection of house refuse and the tip attendant. These facilities are greatly appreciated by the workmen.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year action was taken concerning the emission into the air of brick dust from one of the factories. This was damaging crops and interfering with the health and comfort of the people. Certain improvements were carried out and no further complaints have been made.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Rodent Officer has carried out extensive treatment to various areas of the district. Complaints of individual occupiers have been attended to and surveys carried out to ascertain the extent of local disinfestation. The sewers have been treated by the Surveyor's Department with the assistance of the Rodent Operative.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS.

There are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.



SCHOOLS.

Periodical visits have been carried out in respect to the sanitary condition and nuisances in the schools. No reports of insanitary conditions were made.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

The number of Informal Notices served was 53.

Statutory Notices, 47..

Informal Notices complied with, 33.

Statutory Notices complied with, 41.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & BAKEHOUSES.

137 inspections of Registered Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses were made during the year.

Sanitary defects found	...	...	...	21
Defects remedied	...	...	...	21
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	0
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	12
Defective Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	9

In each case Informal Notices were complied with.

No Statutory Action was found necessary.

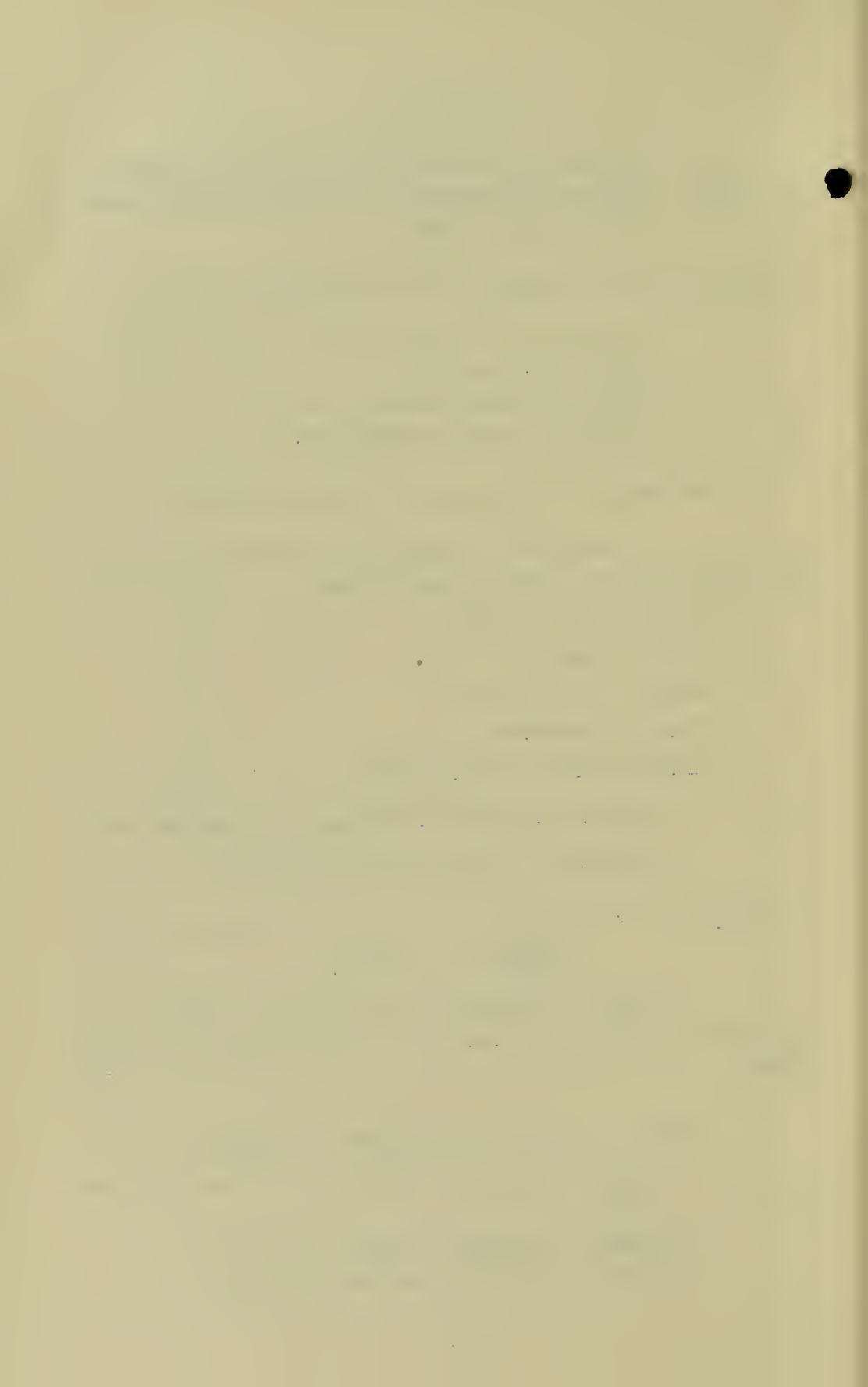
REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	89
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 97



- (ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | | | | | 0 |

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 131 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice | | | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 113 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | | | | | 0 |

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | ... | 0 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | ... | 0 |

D—Proceedings under Sections 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (i) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (ii) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—Samples of milk were taken from time to time for bacteriological analysis.



Clean Food.—All traders have shown a willingness to co-operate in improving the sanitary conditions of their premises. The following works have been carried out :—

Meat Shops :

Washing Facilities	...	...	...	...	4
Hot and Cold Water	...	...	...	...	5
Internal Cleansing and Structural Alterations					3
Decoration and Painting	...	...	...		2

Bakehouses :

Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	7
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
Limewashing	...	...	...	...	3
Structural Improvements	...	...	...	...	5

Refreshment Houses and Shops :

Improved Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	4
Structural Alterations	...	...	...	...	1
Decoration and Painting	...	...	...	...	5

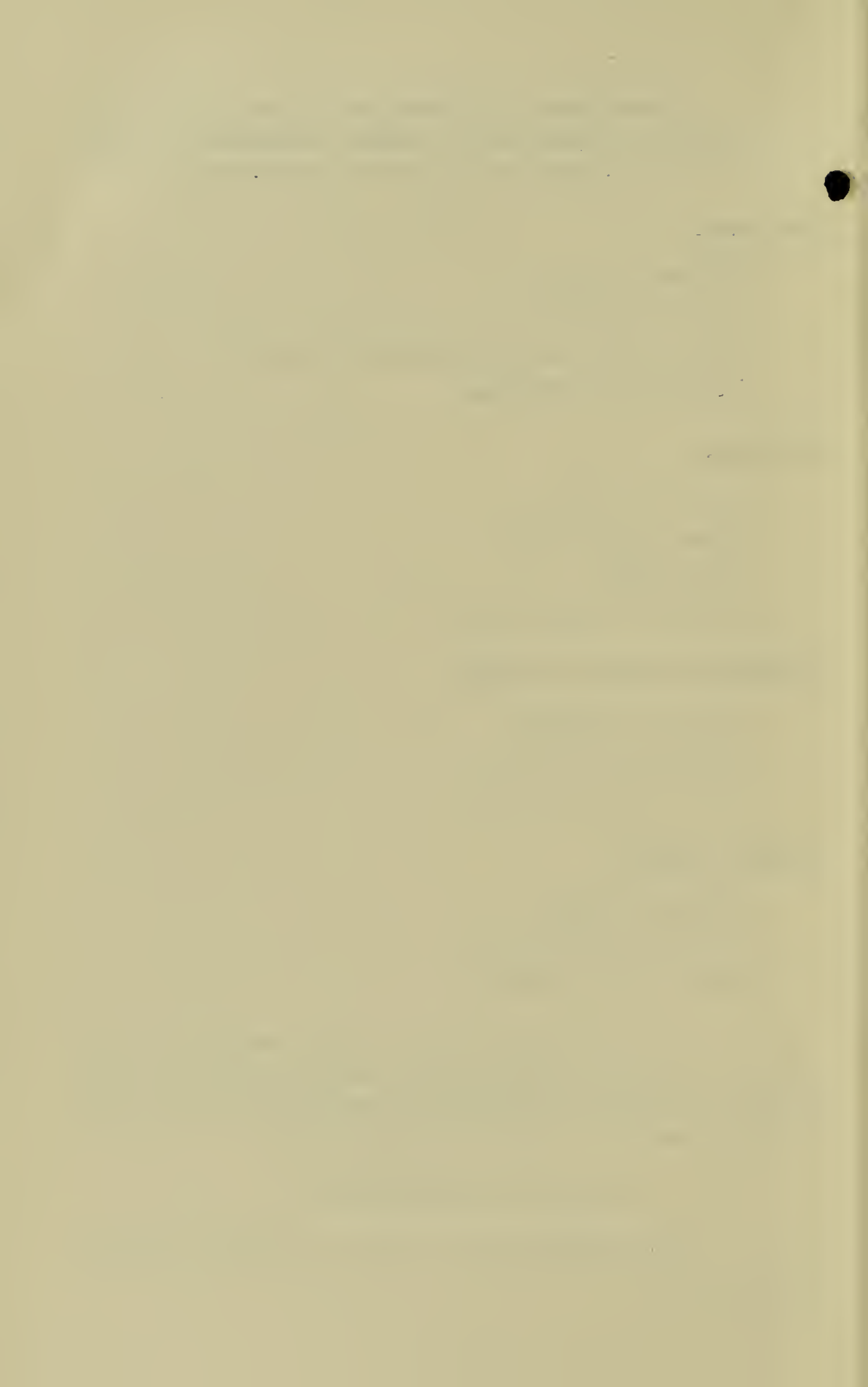
Licensed Premises :

Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
Repairs and Nuisances	...	...	...	...	10

It is unfortunate that the Local Authority have no rights of entry to the various Clubs used for the sale of drink and food, and therefore cannot enforce the regulations and control now being exercised in Public Licensed Premises.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS.

All foodshops have been periodically inspected during the year.



The following unsound foodstuffs have been surrendered and destroyed :—

Tins of Biscuits	...	...	4
Tins of Milk	...	...	25
Tins of Meat	...	...	54
Tins of Fish	...	...	61
Meat (lbs)	...	...	210
Bacon (lbs)	...	...	47
Cheese (lbs)	...	...	10
Butter (lbs)	...	...	16

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

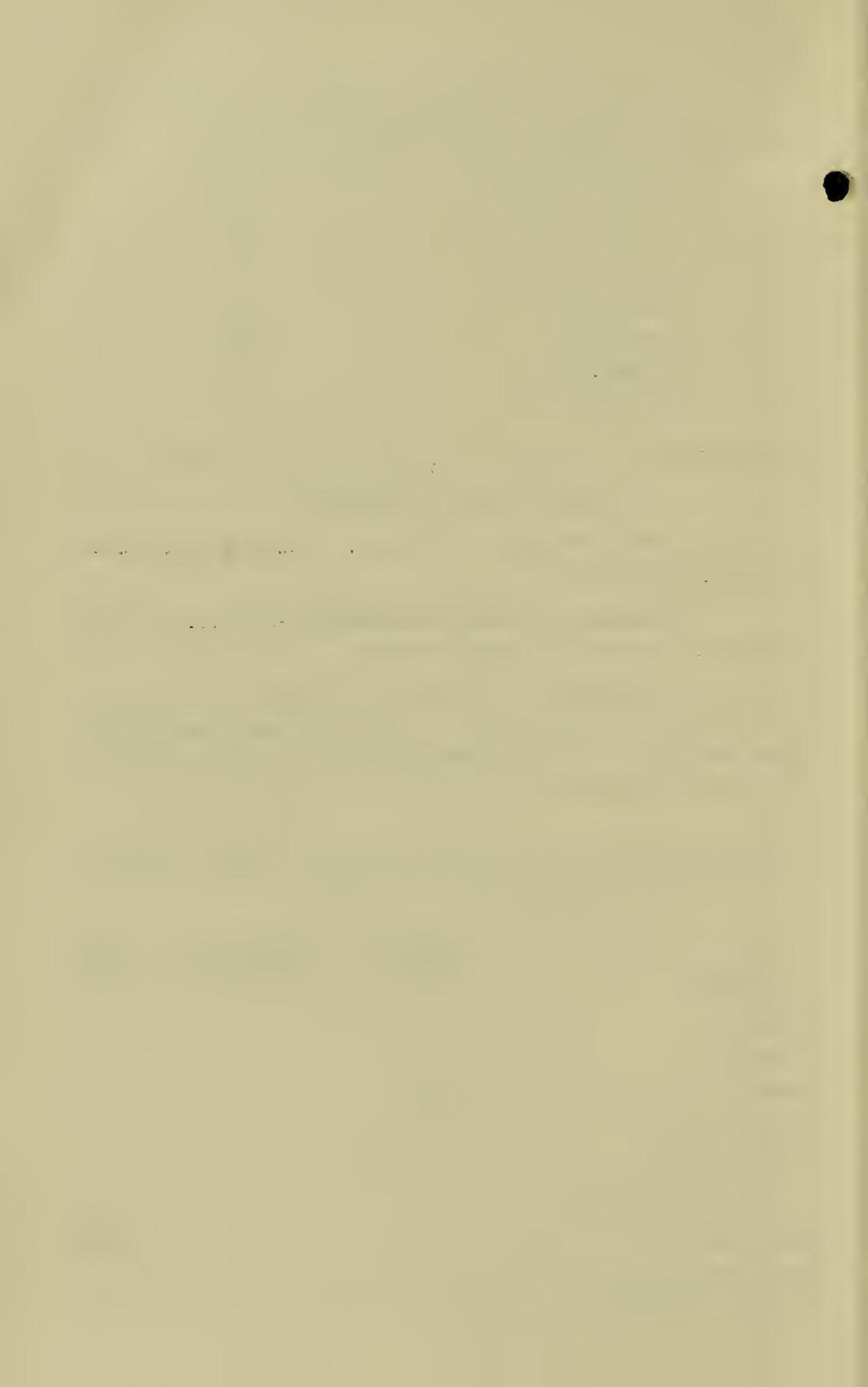
Food Poisoning.—No food poisoning outbreaks occurred during the year.

Diphtheria, Acute Poliomyelitis.—No case of either of these diseases occurred during the year.

Measles.—The incidence of measles was very high in the Spring of the year, most of the 299 cases occurring in March and April. The cases were generally of a mild nature, but there was one death due to this cause.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1951.

Disease				Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted into Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	299	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	22	—	—
Enteric Fever						
(including Paratyphoid)	...			—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	3	5
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—



AGE GROUP ANALYSIS.

	Under 1 Year	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/65	Over 65
1. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Whoop'g Cough	1	6	4	5	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles	9	25	31	37	57	129	7	2	2	—	—	—
5. Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1951.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35-45	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
55-65	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	5	3	1	1	0	1	0	0

As in 1950 so in 1951 only 1 death was attributed to Tuberculosis. The number of new cases of this disease was little more than half that of the previous year—10 in 1951; 19 in 1950.



HOUSING.

	Prefab.	Non- Traditional	Traditional Houses
Number of Houses owned by Local Authority on 31st December, 1951	200	100	701
Number of Local Authority Houses in course of erection on 31st Dec. 1951	—	—	43
Number of Houses for which sanction had been given but which had not been commenced on 31st Dec. 1951	—	—	—

Total Number of Houses Erected During the Year :—

	Prefab.	Non- Traditional	Traditional Houses
By Local Authority	—	50	53
By Private Enterprise	—	—	14
Total	—	50	67
Number of Houses under construction by Private Enterprise, but not completed on 31st December, 1951	—	—	8

To speed up the Housing Programme the Council decided to augment its traditional house-building by a non-traditional form of construction. In the early part of the year 20 Easiform houses were completed at Pontnewydd with concrete cavity walls instead of brickwork. This was followed by 30 Easiform houses at Oakfield Park, together with 30 three-bedroom brick-built houses on the same site. During the year work commenced on a scheme for the construction of traditional bungalows specially designed for occupation by old people. These were in the form of short-terrace blocks carefully sited among other house types at the Oakfield Park Estate. Twenty of these dwellings were completed during the year. The success of the Easiform dwellings led to further contracts being placed and by the end of the year 50 further dwellings were completed and another 50 commenced.



In addition the New Town Corporation had under construction at the end of the year 156 houses and 6 flats. 100 of the houses were of the type with three bedrooms; 44 had two bedrooms and 12 had four bedrooms. Of the flats three were dwellings with one bedroom and three had two bedrooms.

These figures show a great achievement in the housing drive with an enormous increase on the figures for the previous year. Another satisfactory feature was that as a result of the improved position the Council found it possible to start on their programme to enforce Closing Orders on certain old and insanitary properties by re-housing the tenants and taking steps to prevent the re-letting of houses subject to Demolition Orders.

My thanks are due to the other Officers of the Council who have provided me with certain material for this report.

I am, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EVELYN D. OWEN.

